WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Medical treatment of VVIPs in Foreign Countries

*261. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiary VVIPs including high ranking politicians and bureaucrats, who were allowed to receive treatment abroad during the last three years ending 31 March, 2009 and whose treatment has been completed so far this year;

(b) the extent of expenditure incurred by Government both on the treatment and on the travel and stay of their attendants, year-wise, separately; and

(c) the specific ailments for which treatment in foreign countries was allowed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) does not provide for obtaining treatment abroad by its beneficiaries. The CGHS does not maintain any separate categories of VVIP beneficiaries. However, Central Government employees, sitting MPs, Ministers and their family members can obtain treatment abroad under the CS(MA) Rules, 1944, only after the Standing Committee constituted under the aforesaid rules recommends treatment abroad. Expenditure in such cases is borne by the respective Departments/Ministries and is not charged to the CGHS. Only in the cases of Ex-Prime Ministers, whose medical care arrangements are regulated by a separate scheme of medical care for the Prime Ministers and former Prime Ministers, expenditure on treatment abroad is borne by the CGHS. The specific ailments for which cases for treatment abroad can be considered by the Standing Committee are as given below:

(i) Complex/high risk Cardio Vascular Surgery cases for treatment at centers with extensive experiences;

(ii) Bone Marrow Transplant:

(iii) Complex medical and oncological disorders, such as Leukaemia and Neo-plastic conditions;

(iv) Complex high risk cases in Micro Vascular and Neuro Surgery for treatment at Centers with extensive experience;

(v) Treatment of extremely complex ailments other than those mentioned above which in the opinion of Standing Committee can only be treated abroad and fall in the high risk category.